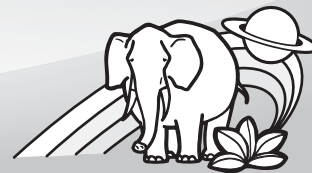


Night Animals



**New words to practice.
Say each word ten times.**

* nocturnal

* twice

* active

* mirror

* diurnal

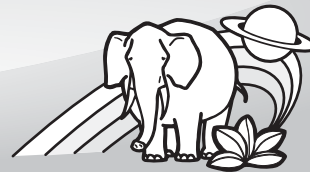
* tapetum

* sensitive

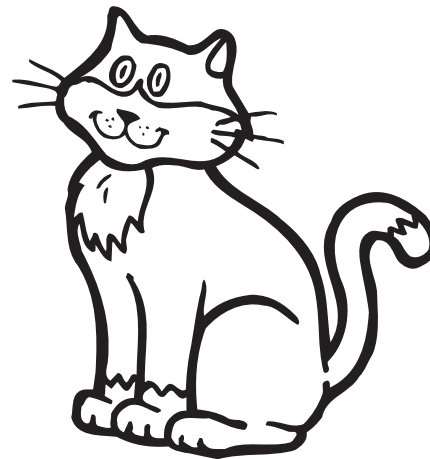
* bounces

Choose one new word to write.

Night Animals

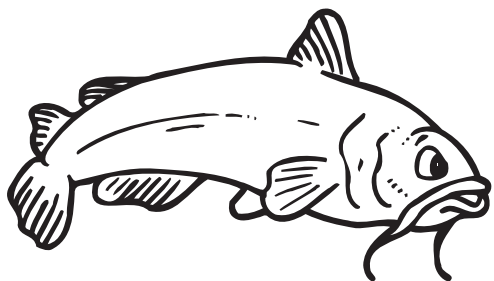


Night animals spend most of their lives in the dark. They sleep during the day. Then, when it is night, they wake up. They hunt and eat. They build their nests. They take care of their babies, all in the dark. Night animals are nocturnal. They are active at night. Night animals are not diurnal. They are not active during the day.



Who has a better sense of sight—a nocturnal or a diurnal animal? A nocturnal animal has a better sense of sight. All eyes have a lens. The lens gathers light. All eyes have many tiny cells at their back. The tiny cells are called rods. The rods are sensitive to light. Nocturnal animals have a lot more rods than diurnal animals. With more rods, nocturnal animals are more sensitive to light. They can see with little light.

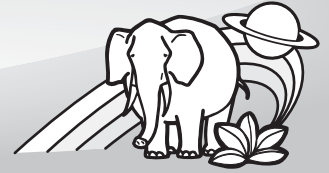
Some nocturnal animals can see every ray of light twice! This makes it so they can see when there is less light. How can an animal see every ray of light twice? The animal has a kind of mirror. The mirror is in the back of its eye. The mirror is called a tapetum. First, the light enters the eye. It hits the rods. Then, it bounces off the mirror. It bounces off the mirror and hits the rods again. Have you ever wondered why some nocturnal animal eyes seem to glow at night when you shine a light at them? Now you know! It is because the light is bouncing off of the tapetum!



Many nocturnal animals have big ears. This makes it so they can hear sounds from far away. Cats are nocturnal hunters. They need to be quiet so their big-eared prey cannot hear them. The bottoms of cats' paws have heavy fur and soft pads. The fur and the pads help the cats move quietly.

Nocturnal animals have a good sense of smell and touch. The catfish is a nocturnal hunter. Its "whiskers" are not hair. They are flesh. The catfish uses them to feel and smell its way along the river bottom.

Night Animals



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. What sense was not in the story?

- (a) tasting
- (b) hearing
- (c) smelling
- (d) touching

2. This story is mainly about

- (a) light sensitive cells.
- (b) when animals are active.
- (c) nocturnal animal senses.
- (d) how animals hunt at night.

3. Why do some animal's eyes glow when you shine a light at them?

- (a) The animal has more rods in its eyes.
- (b) The animal's eyes are sensitive to light.
- (c) The ray of light bounces off of the tapetum.
- (d) The ray of light hits tiny cells in the eye lens.

4. Think about how the word **nocturnal** relates to **night**. Which words relate in the same way?

nocturnal : night

- (a) eye : sense
- (b) pad : quiet
- (c) twice : two
- (d) diurnal : day

5. Many hawks and eagles fly high in the sky while looking for animals to eat, or prey. This means they are most likely

- (a) mirrors.
- (b) diurnal.
- (c) nocturnal.
- (d) sensitive.

Answer Key



Page 11—Snake Sense

1.a 2.d 3.d 4.c 5.b

Page 14—At the Top of Giants

1.c 2.a 3.b 4.b 5.a

Page 17—Moon Tricks

1.a 2.d 3.b 4.d 5.a

Page 20—Not Nice Lice

1.c 2.c 3.d 4.b 5.b

Page 23—Seeing Colors at Night

1.b 2.d 3.c 4.d 5.a

Page 26—Adding Up an Elephant

1.b 2.a 3.d 4.d 5.a

Page 29—A 200,000 Year-Old Meal

1.b 2.d 3.c 4.d 5.b

Page 32—A Riddle

1.c 2.a 3.a 4.b 5.d

Page 35—All About Air

1.a 2.d 3.d 4.b 5.c

Page 38—Burning Ships

1.c 2.c 3.d 4.a 5.a

Page 41—A True Life Mystery

1.c 2.b 3.a 4.b 5.c

Page 44—Hunter in the Sky

1.d 2.b 3.c 4.b 5.a

Page 47—Strange Partners

1.a 2.c 3.a 4.d 5.b

Page 50—Warts

1.a 2.b 3.d 4.a 5.b

Page 53—The Fastest Thing in the Universe

1.b 2.d 3.a 4.a 5.b

Page 56—Turtle or Tortoise?

1.b 2.d 3.c 4.d 5.c

Page 59—Hidden Treasure—Right Before Our Eyes!

1.a 2.b 3.c 4.d 5.d

Page 62—Where You Can Run Away From Night

1.b 2.a 3.a 4.c 5.c

Page 65—Meat-Eating Plants

1.b 2.a 3.c 4.c 5.b

Page 68—Harnessing the Wind

1.d 2.d 3.a 4.c 5.a

Page 71—A Dinner of Mice

1.c 2.a 3.b 4.d 5.c

Page 74—How to See Through a Wall

1.c 2.a 3.a 4.b 5.d

Page 77—Night Animals

1.a 2.c 3.c 4.d 5.b

Page 80—What the Letters Mean

1.d 2.c 3.c 4.d 5.b

Page 83—The Midnight Sun

1.b 2.c 3.d 4.a 5.b

Page 86—Passing Gas

1.b 2.a 3.d 4.a 5.c

Page 89—The Walrus

1.b 2.b 3.a 4.c 5.d

Page 92—Clothes Stronger than Steel

1.c 2.b 3.a 4.c 5.d

Page 95—Tsunami

1.d 2.b 3.d 4.b 5.a

Page 98—Flying Predators

1.d 2.a 3.b 4.c 5.c

Page 101—The Gas Giant

1.a 2.d 3.a 4.b 5.c

Page 104—Who Mosquitoes Like to Bite

1.a 2.c 3.d 4.b 5.c

Page 107—How to Carry Water in a Net

1.c 2.b 3.b 4.d 5.a

Page 110—Atoms and the Printing Press

1.c 2.a 3.a 4.b 5.b

Page 113—Hot Monkeys

1.c 2.d 3.a 4.c 5.d

Page 116—Floating Giants

1.b 2.a 3.c 4.b 5.d

Page 119—Ant Gliders

1.b 2.a 3.c 4.c 5.a

Page 122—Dinosaur Quiz

1.d 2.b 3.c 4.c 5.b

Page 125—Sharing Water with Predators

1.d 2.c 3.d 4.b 5.b

Page 128—How a Telescope Led to Trouble

1.d 2.a 3.c 4.d 5.c

Page 131—What You Burn

1.c 2.a 3.c 4.d 5.a

Page 134—Roy G. Biv and Light

1.a 2.b 3.d 4.d 5.a

Page 137—A Great Scientist

1.b 2.b 3.d 4.c 5.d

Page 140—The Hottest Eyes

1.c 2.b 3.a 4.d 5.d